

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 modified the Atomic Energy Act to require the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to prepare a report to Congress (Report to Congress) discussing the health, safety, and environmental conditions at the gaseous diffusion plants which are located near Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio. The last report, covering the period from October 1, 1997, to September 30, 1998, was sent to the Congressional oversight committees on January 15, 1999. Enclosed is the third NRC Report to Congress, which covers a 5-year period, October 1, 1998, to September 30, 2003. As required by the Act, this report has been coordinated with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) continues to actively pursue research and development of gas centrifuge technology for uranium enrichment. On June 17, 2002, USEC and DOE signed an Agreement, in which, among other commitments, DOE committed to work with USEC in its development and deployment of an advanced gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant. A discussion of the gas centrifuge process is provided in Chapter 8 of the Report to Congress and is included since it has the potential to impact gaseous diffusion plant operations.

Sincerely,

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:
Report to Congress on the GDPs near
Paducah, KY and Portsmouth, OH

Identical Letters sent to:

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Honorable Jim Bunning
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator Bunning:

The Honorable Mike DeWine
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator DeWine:

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Honorable David L. Hobson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator McConnell:

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Congressman Portman:

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Congressman Whitfield: